

RURAL DISTRICT OF BATTLE



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1971

J. K. BUTTERFIELD,

T.D., L.M.S.S.A., D.P.H., R.C.P.S. M.F.C.M., F.R.S.H.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1971, and I am pleased to record that, as in previous years, the health of the District compares favourably with the rest of England and Wales.

On this, the occasion of my first report for the District, I would like to take the opportunity of reminding Members that this year saw the retirement of Dr. M. I. Silverton, after 22 years continuous service as the Medical Officer of Health to the Rural District of Battle. During this time he had built up an intimate knowledge of the large rural area under his supervision, with the result that whenever a potential epidemiological or public health emergency arose, he was able to deal with it with expedition and skill, rendering its impact upon the public at risk to negligible proportions.

This same expertise has also made it possible for me to occupy the chair so recently vacated by him with the minimum amount of trauma, and I am sure you will join with me in thanking him for his legacy, and in wishing him a long and happy retirement in a new and sunnier environment.

Mr. W. T. Dunford, Chief Public Health Inspector, the District Public Health Inspectors, and the Clerical Staff, have given me their loyal support throughout the year, and I welcome this opportunity of conveying my thanks to them.

I am grateful to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their enthusiastic interest and support, and I am obliged to the Clerk to the District and my other Chief Officer colleagues, for their courtesy and co-operation at all times.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. K. BUTTERFIELD.

Medical Officer of Health.

The Watch Oak,
Battle, Sussex.
Telephone: Battle 2214.

THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BATTLE

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(constitution at 31st December, 1971)

Chairman:

MR. Q. LLOYD

Vice-Chairman:

MRS. F. R. BISHOP

MRS. H. J. WILSON, J.P. (Chairman of the Council)

MR. H. C. F. ARIS

MRS. A. F. DREWE

MR. F. GEARY

MR. J. W. E. HAY-DRUMMOND-HAY,
T.D.

MR. H. M. HORSLEY

MR. N. A. LEE

MR. R. J. LYLE

MR. J. A. MACOUN

MR. F. J. REEVES

MRS. S. F. STAPYLTON-SMITH

DR. J. R. WRIGHT, T.D., J.P.

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

M. I. SILVERTON, O.B.E., O.St.J., T.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
F.R.S.H.

(also Medical Officer of Health to Borough of Rye and School Medical
Officer to East Sussex County Council)
(to 5.11.1971)

J. K. BUTTERFIELD, T.D., L.M.S.S.A., D.P.H., R.C.P.S., M.F.C.M.,
F.R.S.H.

(also Medical Officer of Health to the Boroughs of Bexhill and Rye)
(from 15.11.1971)

Senior Public Health Inspector:

W. T. DUNFORD, Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Foods Cert.

Deputy Senior Public Health Inspector:

R. E. BRIGGS, D.P.A., Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Foods Cert.

Public Health Inspectors:

R. D. Brown, Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Foods Cert.

R. Pulford, Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Foods Cert.

R. C. Price, Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Foods Cert.

Chief Administrative Assistant:

Mr. E. Barrow

Administrative Assistant:

Mrs. W. R. Edwards

Shorthand-Typists and General Clerks:

C. W. Field

Mrs. M. Harding (to 31.3.1971)

Miss S. Ripley (from 16.4.1971)

Miss L. D. Beaney (from 1.6.1971)

STATISTICS RELATING TO BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT

Area of district in acres (estimated)	117,147
Population (Registrar General's estimate for mid-year) ..	33,880

Analyses of Rateable Values

	1st April, 1971		1st April, 1972	
Domestic properties ..	966,251	72·1%	999,671	72·5%
Commercial properties ..	158,757	11·9%	166,645	12·1%
Industrial properties ..	86,310	6·4%	85,047	6·2%
Other properties	128,656	9·6%	126,541	9·2%
	<hr/> 1,339,984	<hr/> 100%	<hr/> 1,377,944	<hr/> 100%
Product of one penny rate ..	£13,092		£13,402	
Properties rated	15,645		15,977	

VITAL STATISTICS

Mothers and Infants

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	173	158	331
Illegitimate	9	8	17
	<hr/> 182	<hr/> 166	<hr/> 348

Stillbirths

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	4	5
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 5

	Battle R.D.	England and Wales
<i>Illegitimate Live Births</i> (per cent of total live births)	5	8
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	10.3	16.0
Standardised Birth Rate	13.6	16.0
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	14	12
<i>Total Live and Stillbirths</i>	353	793,063
<i>Infant Deaths</i> (deaths under one year) ..	2	13,726
<i>Infant Mortality Rates</i>		
Total infant deaths per 1,000 live births ..	6	18
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	6	17
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0	24
<i>Neo-natal Mortality Rate</i> (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	6	12
<i>Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate</i> (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	6	10

Battle R.D. England and Wales

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)

20 22

Maternal Mortality (including abortion):

Number of deaths Nil 266

Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths .. 0.00 0.33

Deaths

Battle R.D.

Male 237 } 528
Female 291 }

England and Wales

Male .. 288,409 } 567,345
Female .. 278,936 }

Deaths per 1,000 home

population (crude rate) 15.6

11.6

Standardised death rate 9.4

11.6

The standardised Birth and Death Rates pay due regard to the increased proportion of aged and retired persons within the Rural District as compared with England and Wales, and this is reflected in the increased number of deaths and the comparatively low number of births.

Equalisation is achieved by using an area comparability factor which is provided annually by the Registrar General.

DETAILED CAUSES OF DEATH

Cause	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 1 Year	1-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over
Infective and parasitic diseases	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity, etc.	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	M	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	8
	F	11	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	9
Malignant neoplasm, larynx	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	M	16	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	9
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast	F	11	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Leukaemia	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Other malignant neoplasms	M	8	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	5
	F	16	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	13
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Diabetes mellitus	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1

DETAILED CAUSES OF DEATH (continued)

Cause	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 1 Year	1- 14	15- 24	25- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 64	65 and over
Mental disorders	M	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
	F	11	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	10
Other diseases of nervous system	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Hypertensive disease	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3
Ischaemic heart disease	M	74	—	—	—	—	—	7	9	58
	F	73	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	68
Other forms of heart disease	M	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
	F	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	18
Cerebrovascular disease	M	31	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	28
	F	63	—	—	—	—	—	5	7	51
Other diseases of circulatory system	M	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	11
	F	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Pneumonia	M	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
	F	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28
Bronchitis and emphysema	M	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	11
	F	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Peptic ulcer	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cirrhosis of liver	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Other diseases of digestive system	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Other diseases of genito- urinary system	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diseases of musculo- skeletal system	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	M	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other causes of perinatal mortality	M	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Symptoms and ill- defined conditions	M	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Motor vehicle accidents	M	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
All other accidents	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	F	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
All other external causes	M	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	237	2	—	2	1	—	15	26	191
	F	291	—	—	—	—	2	11	29	249

MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH

	1969	1970	1971
(i) Diseases of the heart and circulatory system	68 (12.6%)	64 (11.7%)	59 (11.2%)
Coronary disease	111 (20.5%)	132 (24.04%)	147 (27.8%)
(ii) Malignant neoplasms (cancer) .	68 (12.6%)	85 (15.5%)	76 (14.4%)
Cancer of lung and bronchus ...	36 (6.7%)	26 (4.8%)	20 (3.8%)
(iii) Vascular lesions of the nervous system	88 (16.3%)	95 (17.3%)	94 (17.8%)
(iv) Respiratory disease (excluding tuberculosis)	84 (15.5%)	98 (17.8%)	65 (12.3%)

DEATHS—65 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER

	Battle R.D.		Greater London	
	1970	1971	1970	1971
Total deaths ..	549	528	86,071	85,000
Number of deaths 65 years and over ..	458	440	60,671	60,425
Percentage of total deaths	83.4	83.3	70.5	71.08

SUMMARY OF POPULATION, BIRTHS AND DEATHS WITH RATES
1961-1971

Year	Esti- mated popula- tion	Total live births			Stand- ardised Birth rate	Birth rate Eng. & W.	Total deaths			Stand- ardised death rate	Death rate Eng. & W.	Natu- ral de- crease
		M	F	Total			M	F	Total			
1961	30,400	174	188	362	14.0	17.4	235	262	497	11.6	12.0	-135
1962	30,710	195	189	382	14.6	18.1	227	248	475	10.3	11.9	- 93
1963	31,000	186	192	378	16.0	18.2	244	288	532	11.3	12.2	-154
1964	31,410	218	197	415	17.4	18.4	264	251	515	10.8	11.3	-100
1965	31,910	206	192	398	16.4	18.1	262	235	497	9.9	11.5	- 99
1966	31,910	197	200	397	16.4	18.1	271	256	527	10.0	11.7	-130
1967	32,060	176	190	366	15.1	17.2	269	238	507	10.0	11.2	-141
1968	32,260	170	163	333	13.6	16.9	286	251	537	10.0	11.9	-204
1969	32,340	192	177	369	15.0	16.3	266	275	541	10.0	11.9	-172
1970	32,540	190	178	368	14.9	16.0	240	309	549	10.1	11.7	-181
1971	33,880	182	166	348	13.6	16.0	237	291	528	9.4	11.6	-180

LUNG CANCER DEATHS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Males	23,510	23,903	24,695	24,910	25,137
Females	4,678	4,933	5,073	5,371	5,609
	28,188	28,836	29,768	30,281	30,746

FATAL ACCIDENTS BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE THE HOME (England and Wales)

	1970			1971		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Accidental poisoning	446	505	951	459	479	938
Accidental falls	1,817	3,816	5,633	1,824	3,712	5,536
Accidents caused by fire	335	457	792	306	388	694
Accidental drowning	380	106	486	407	123	530
All other accidents	1,513	671	2,184	1,372	648	2,020
TOTALS	4,491	5,555	10,046	4,368	5,350	9,718

MOTOR VEHICLE DEATHS

<i>England and Wales</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1968	4,315	2,034	6,349
1969	4,598	2,030	6,628
1970	4,715	2,072	6,787
1971	5,106	2,334	7,440

There were two deaths from this cause within Battle Rural District during 1971.

MOUTH TO MOUTH RESUSCITATION

Instruction of the public in mouth-to-mouth method of resuscitation continued throughout the year and included the Fire Brigade, Boy Scouts, Brownies and Young Wives. A total of 66 persons attended for instruction.

I am indebted to Mr. A. R. Hoad, Sub-station Officer, Battle St. John Ambulance Brigade, for his personal efforts and interest in making himself available to give these demonstrations in his off-duty time.

THE CHRONICALLY SICK AND DISABLED PERSONS ACT, 1970

The underlying purpose is to draw attention to the problems, varying with age and incapacity, of people who are handicapped by chronic sickness and disablement; to express concern that these problems should be more widely known and studied and to urge that when priorities are settled, full weight is given to finding solutions.

A special emphasis is placed on making communal buildings of all types structurally available to this hitherto neglected section of the community.

This Council is already showing its concern and using its best endeavours to solve the problems presented.

MORTUARY FACILITIES

Available by arrangement with the Hospital Management Committee at Rye Hospital.

The mortuary at the Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings, is used whenever possible.

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis

This district has been free from Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis for the past 26 years and 12 years respectively.

Importation from abroad is a continuing ever present danger.

Immunisation is the controlling factor in the elimination of these diseases.

Measles

The vaccination programme which is being undertaken is now well under way and as forecast in 1970, a decline is now beginning to appear and should gather momentum in future years.

Whooping cough

Low incidence with immunisation controlling and minimising adverse effects.

Scarlet fever

Mild in character and of no special significance, no case admitted to hospital. The usual investigations were made in each case regarding the possibility of food handlers being involved and where indicated, alternative work was advised and accepted.

Administration of T.A.B. Vaccine

All persons intending to travel abroad should be vaccinated against typhoid fever. This will normally be done by the individual's own doctor. Dosage varies according to age. For primary immunisation, two doses should be given at an interval of 4 to 6 weeks followed by a third dose 6-12 months after the second. Reinforcing doses at yearly intervals are advocated where the subject is at continued risk.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1971

Age		Primary Notifications			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F
0-2	...	—	—	—	—
3-5	...	—	—	—	—
6-10	...	—	—	—	—
11-15	...	—	—	—	—
16-25	...	—	—	—	—
26-35	...	—	—	—	—
36-45	...	—	—	—	—
46-60	...	—	—	—	—
Over 60	...	1	—	—	—

I am happy to report a reprieve in this area for the Mass Miniature Radiography Service which will continue to function as in the past.

Well publicised periodic visits are made within the District including adjacent Local Authority areas.

The Mass Miniature Radiography Unit visited Battle on the 15th and 16th December and during that time 102 males and 94 females took advantage of this facility.

Mass Miniature Radiography not only discloses early tuberculosis lesions but other abnormal conditions of the heart and lungs which are amenable to treatment.

It is emphasised that this Service is free and that no information is disclosed without the patient's consent.

DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE PARISHES

	Measles	Infective Jaundice	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Food Poisoning
Ashburnham (273)	—	—	2	—	—
Battle (4,980)	—	—	—	—	—
Beckley (888)	3	—	—	—	—
Bodiam (303)	—	—	—	—	—
Brede (1,391)	28	—	—	—	—
Brightling (359)	—	—	—	—	—
Burwash (2,061)	8	1	—	1	—
Camber (553)	4	—	—	—	—
Catsfield (672)	2	—	—	—	—
Crowhurst (763)	—	—	—	—	—
Dallington (264)	—	—	—	—	—
East Guldeford (95)	—	—	—	—	—
Etchingham (626)	1	—	—	—	1
Ewhurst (898)	3	—	—	—	—
Fairlight (1,367)	—	—	—	—	—
Guestling (1,155)	—	—	—	—	—
Hurst Green (865)	1	—	—	—	—
Icklesham (2,032)	10	—	1	—	—
Iden (365)	3	—	—	—	—
Mountfield (551)	—	—	—	—	—
Northiam (1,703)	21	—	—	1	—
Peasmarsh (902)	1	—	—	—	—
Penhurst (33)	—	—	—	—	—
Pett (649)	—	—	—	—	—
Playden (333)	4	—	—	—	—
Rye Foreign (398)	—	—	—	—	—
Salehurst (1,844)	—	—	1	—	—
Sedlescombe (1,315)	5	1	—	—	—
Ticchurst (3,116)	—	—	—	—	—
Udimore (348)	—	—	—	—	—
Westfield (2,187)	7	—	1	—	—
Whatlington (274)	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	101	2	5	2	1

Population of parishes is given in brackets—Census of 1971 (provisional figures).

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS

Disease	Under 1 Year	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	Totals
Scarlet fever	—	—	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	5
Measles	2	17	19	47	14	2	—	—	—	101
Infective jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Whooping cough	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Food poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Totals	2	17	22	49	16	5	—	—	—	111

SEASONAL INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Scarlet fever ..	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	5
Measles	22	12	51	6	6	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	101
Infective jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Whooping cough	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Food poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Totals	23	12	53	7	7	3	1	1	3	1	—	—	111

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1966-1971 1st JANUARY-31st DECEMBER

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Measles	181	438	39	59	211	101
Scarlet fever..	5	6	4	23	22	5
Whooping cough ..	13	10	9	—	2	2
*Acute pneumonia ..	3	4	4	—	—	—
*Erysipelas	1	2	1	—	—	—
*Puerperal pyrexia	—	1	1	—	—	—
Food poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	2	1
Dysentery	3	—	—	—	1	—
Para-typhoid	1	—	1	—	—	—
Infective jaundice ..	—	—	13	†33	3	2

*Ceased to be notifiable on 1st October, 1968.

†This outbreak was fully described in my 1968 Annual Report.

PERIOD OF EXCLUSION IN CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

	Usual Incubation period (days)	Interval between onset and appearance of rash (days)	Period of exclusion	
			<i>Patients</i>	<i>Contacts</i> , i.e. the other members of the family or household living together as a family, that is, in one tenement.
SCARLET FEVER AND STREPTOCOCCAL SORE THROAT	1—7	1—2	Re-admit when family doctor permits.	Adult contacts engaged in school meals service excluded until Medical Officer of Health allows return to work. Other contacts, if healthy, need not be excluded.
MEASLES	7—14	3—4	10 days after the appearance of the rash if the child appears well.	Children under 5 years of age who have not had the disease should be excluded for 7 days from the date of the appearance of the rash in the last case in the house. Other contacts can attend school. Any contact suffering from a cough, cold, chill or red eyes should be immediately excluded.
GERMAN MEASLES	5—21	0—2	7 days from the appearance of the rash.	None.
WHOOPING COUGH	6—18	—	28 days from the beginning of the characteristic cough.	Children under 7 years who have not had the disease should be excluded for 21 days from the date of onset of the disease in the last case in the house.
CHICKEN-POX	11—21	0—2	7 days from the date of appearance of the rash.	None.
MUMPS	12—28	—	7 days from the subsidence of the swelling.	None.
CONJUNCTIVITIS (INCLUDING PINK EYE)	1—3	—	To be excluded until certified as fit to attend.	None.
RINGWORM OF THE BODY (INCLUDING ATHLETE'S FOOT)	If the infected area can be kept covered the patient need not be excluded. He should not, however, take part in swimming—nor in the case of ringworm of the feet—in gymnastic classes or barefoot dancing.			

SCHEDULE OF VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION PROCEDURES

Age	Prophylactic	Interval	Notes
During the first year of life	Diph/Tet/Pert. and oral Polio vaccine (First dose) Diph/Tet/Pert. and oral Polio vaccine. (Second dose) Diph/Tet/Pert. and oral Polio vaccine. (Third dose)	Preferably after an interval of 6-8 weeks Preferably after an interval of 6 months	The earliest age at which the first dose should be given is 3 months, but a better general immunological response can be expected if the first dose is delayed to 6 months of age
During the second year of life	Measles vaccination Smallpox vaccination	After an interval of not less than 3-4 weeks	In individual cases and if special circumstances call for it, vaccination against smallpox may be carried out.
At 5 years of age or school entry	Diph/Tet and oral Polio vaccine or Diph/Tet/Polio vaccine		These may be given, if desired, at 3 years of age to children entering nursery schools, attending day nurseries or living in children's homes
Between 10 and 13 years of age	B.C.G. vaccine		For tuberculin-negative children
At 15-19 years of age or on leaving school	Polio vaccine (Oral or inactivated) Tetanus toxoid		

Smallpox

International certificates of vaccination against smallpox authenticated in this office for travel abroad:—

				Primary	Revaccination
1968	..	..	..	36	373
1969	..	..	..	36	418
1970	..	..	..	44	496
1971	..	..	..	29	493

Travellers, in their own interests, should not proceed to smallpox areas without making certain that they have obtained a successful result following vaccination or re-vaccination.

International Certificate

Gamma globulin is often requested for intending travellers in whom smallpox vaccination is contra-indicated but who wish to obtain an International Certificate of Vaccination against Smallpox. It should be noted that smallpox vaccination in the presence of contra-indications is undesirable even with gamma globulin and that the International Regulations make allowances for persons in whom vaccination is contra-indicated.

Extract from Ministry Memorandum on Vaccination against Smallpox (Memo. 312/MED Revised 1962).

“38. It should be noted that vaccination is not obligatory if a medical contra-indication exists. The following is a quotation from the Official Records of the World Health Organisation 54, 56. ‘If a vaccinator is of the opinion that vaccination is contra-indicated on medical grounds, he should provide the person with written reasons underlying that opinion, which the health authority of arrival may take into account. Decision on a claim for exemption from the requirement to be in possession of a certificate lies solely with the health authority of arrival’ ”.

SOCIAL SERVICES

On 1st April, 1971, the social services provided in East Sussex by the Children’s Department, the Welfare Department and the Mental Health and Home Help Services of the Health Department joined together within a new single Social Services Department. This followed the passing last year of the Local Authority Social Services Act which opened the way for local authorities to create the type of unified family service recommended by the Seebohm Report.

This new Department is headed by Mr. Denis Allen as Director of Social Services.

One of the main recommendations of the Seebohm Report was that various local authority social services should be made more easily accessible to the families and individuals needing their help and that there should be one central place within reasonable distance to which anyone with family or personal problems could turn for counsel or help.

The Bexhill Area Team covers Battle Rural District and the Boroughs of Bexhill and Rye. The Area Director is Miss G. E. Hughes and her address is Buckhurst Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, telephone number —Bexhill 7881.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(A) PROVIDED BY THE EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(i) (a) *Ambulance Service*

BATTLE. Sub-station, Ambulance Station, High Street (Telephone Bexhill 88), employing 6 men and having 2 ambulances serving the parishes of

Ashburnham	Brightling	Etchingham	Hurst Green
Battle	Burwash	Ewhurst	Mountfield
Bodiam	Catsfield	Flimwell	Penhurst
	Salehurst	Whatlington	

RYE. Sub-station, Conduit Hill (Telephone: Bexhill 88) employs 6 men and has 2 ambulances (including 1 dual purpose vehicle for sitting cases) serving the parishes of

Beckley	Icklesham	Rye Foreign
Camber	Northiam	Rye Harbour
East Guldeford	Peasmarsch	Udimore
Iden	Playden	Winchelsea Town
	Winchelsea Beach	

HASTINGS. Main Station, Cambridge Road (Telephone Hastings 30303), serving the parishes of

Brede	Fairlight	Sedlescombe
Crowhurst	Guestling	Westfield
	Pett	

by arrangement with the County Borough of Hastings.

HEATHFIELD. Harecourt Lodge (Telephone: Lewes 079 16-4307), serving the parishes of Burwash, Dallington, Stonegate, Ticehurst and Wallcrouch.

(b) *Hospital Car Service*

The Hospital Car Service is provided by the joint organisations of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, the British Red Cross and the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The Area Transport Office for this district is at 73a, London Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday (Telephone: 152). Emergency service at weekend through Ambulance Station.

(ii) *Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Children under school age*

(iii) *District Nurses (Midwives) and Health Visitors*

(iv) *Home Help Service*

This service is much appreciated and of great assistance in avoiding hospitalisation and institutionalism, particularly for those elderly persons desirous of remaining in their own homes.

The Health Services and Public Health Act, 1968 now imposes a duty on the Local Health Authority (instead of a power) to provide or arrange a home help service adequate to the needs of the area.

(v) *Infant Welfare Centres*

Name and Address of Centre

BATTLE: Langton House

GUESTLING: The Village Hall, Icklesham

NORTHAM: William Perigoe Memorial Methodist Church Hall

PEASMARSH: Village Hall

RYE: County Clinic, Ferry Road

SEDLEScombe: Village Hall

TICEHURST: Institute Hall

WESTFIELD: Church Hall

The times of attendance at these Centres can be obtained direct from the Health Visitors in these areas.

(vi) *Immunisation and Vaccination Service*

Clinics attended by your Medical Officer of Health were held periodically at all schools and as follows:—

BATTLE: Ambulance Station,
High Street.

Second WEDNESDAY in each month, by appointment.

B.C.G. vaccination sessions against tuberculosis are held at schools for children aged 13 years attended by an Assistant County Medical Officer.

(vii) *Registration of Nursing Homes*

There is one efficiently-conducted registered private Nursing Home in Battle Rural District.

(viii) *School Dental Service*

(ix) *School Medical Service (*routine medical examinations including the assessment of handicapped pupils)*

*Delegated duties to your District Medical Officer of Health, who also acts as School Medical Officer.

(x) *Cervical Cytology*

Application forms to attend clinics, by appointment, within the District may be obtained from the Council Offices, The Watch Oak, Battle; Council Offices, Borough of Rye, Ferry Road, Rye; General Practitioners and Health Visitors.

(B) PROVIDED BY THE EAST SUSSEX SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Homes for the Aged

Furze House, Flimwell, Ticehurst
Grey Friars, Winchelsea.

(C) HOSPITALS

The following are the main hospitals providing accommodation and treatment for residents in the Battle Rural District:—

Battle Hospital, Battle.
 Memorial Hospital, Rye Foreign.
 Isolation Hospital, Tunbridge Wells.
 Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings (including V.D. Clinic).
 Mount Pleasant Isolation Hospital, Hastings.
 St. Helen's Hospital, Hastings.
 Fernbank Maternity Nursing Home, Hastings.
 Buchanan Hospital, St. Leonards-on-Sea.
 Eversfield Chest Hospital, St. Leonards-on-Sea.
 St. Mary's Hospital, Eastbourne.
 Princess Alice Hospital, Eastbourne.
 Gildredge Isolation Hospital, Eastbourne.
 Bexhill Hospital, Bexhill-on-Sea.
 Hellingly Hospital, Hellingly.
 Pembury Hospital, Pembury.
 Kent and Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells.
 Homœopathic Hospital, Tunbridge Wells.
 Cottage Hospital, Hawkhurst.
 Hill House, Rye Foreign.

Administered by the South-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board through their respective Hospital Management Committees.

Blood Transfusion Service

The National Blood Transfusion Service visits Battle periodically.

Stamped addressed leaflets for volunteer donors are available at this Council's Offices.

(D) PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

The Public Health Laboratory Service is a free national laboratory service designed to assist all those concerned in the diagnosis, prevention and control of communicable diseases. The benefits are not limited by health authority, hospital region or other administrative boundary. These facilities are available to all doctors, both for the submission of specimens and for consultation.

Gamma globulin prepared from pooled plasma from normal healthy adults (Human normal immunoglobulin) by the Lister Institute for the Ministry of Health, is distributed to doctors in England and Wales mainly through Laboratories of the Public Health Service. Requests for supplies, which are restricted, should be made to the Public Health Laboratory, Royal Sussex County Hospital, Eastern Road, Brighton, BN2 5BE. Tel. Brighton 63506. For other sources of supply, and for categories of patient for whom gamma globulin is available, see below

Rubella, Pregnancy and Gamma Globulin

1. A sample of clotted blood from the mother, in a plain tube, will be requested by the laboratory as soon as possible after the mother's

exposure to infection during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, except when it has already been established by laboratory tests that the mother has previously had rubella. It is important that the request form should give the date or dates on which exposure to infection, is thought to have occurred.

2. The antibody status of the mother will be determined in the laboratory and assessed in relation to the date of exposure. In a high proportion of cases it will be shown that owing to previous infection the mother is immune to rubella. She can then be reassured with regard to the present and future pregnancies. In borderline cases and when no rubella antibodies are found in the mother, a second sample of serum will be asked for by the laboratory. Antibody tests on the second serum, read in conjunction with the first, will show whether or not the mother became infected (subclinically) as a result of the recent exposure to infection.
3. Since it has been shown that gamma globulin does not protect against subclinical rubella, gamma globulin is now seldom given in this context.

Infective Hepatitis and Gamma Globulin

Gamma globulin confers a degree of protection against Infective Hepatitis when given within two weeks of exposure to infection. Current supplies of gamma globulin are insufficient for the protection of all contacts of Infective Hepatitis but it is available in special circumstances. These include contacts debilitated by serious disease, contacts in artificial kidney units and outbreaks in hospital and laboratory staffs. Gamma globulin may also be issued, on request, to doctors for the passive immunisation of travellers intending to proceed to endemic areas outside Europe and North America. It should be given shortly before the traveller leaves Great Britain. No dose may be issued for despatch to a patient abroad. Travellers for whom it is issued must be British Nationals. If the traveller is a National Health Service patient there is no charge. For private patients there is a charge of £1.75 (per 500 mg. recommended dose) which should be collected by the patient's doctor who will subsequently be invoiced by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Dosage:	Under 11 years	..	..	250 mg.
	11 years or more	..	..	500 mg.

Measles and Gamma Globulin

Available for contacts under 2 years of age or at special risk e.g. debilitated children with no previous history of measles.

Dosage:

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----|----|----|---------|
| 1. Attenuation. | All ages | .. | .. | .. | 250 mg. |
| 2. Prevention | Under 1 year | .. | .. | .. | 250 mg. |
| | 1-2 years | .. | .. | .. | 500 mg. |
| | 3 years and over | .. | .. | .. | 750 mg. |

When measles vaccine is given to children suffering from chronic diseases of the heart and lungs it may be desirable to modify the possible reaction to the vaccine. This is achieved by simultaneous administra-

tion into the opposite limb of 0.6 mg. gamma globulin per lb. of body weight. This dosage should not be exceeded. Gamma globulin in this diluted form is not available from the Public Health Laboratory but can be obtained from the County Health Department, E.S.C.C., Lewes, in ampoules containing 15 mg. of immunoglobulin in 0.5 ml. of diluent.

Hypogammaglobulinaemia and Gamma Globulin

This is the second of two categories for which gamma globulin is not normally issued by the Public Health Laboratory Service. Application should be made to:—

Dr. G. L. Asherson, Clinical Research Centre,
Northwich Park Hospital, Watford Road,
HARROW. HA1 3 UJ. Tel.: 01-864 5311.

Anti-vaccinial Gamma Globulin

Obtainable from the Epidemiological Research Laboratory, Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, London, N.W.9
Tel.: 01-205 7041.

1. *Smallpox Vaccination in the presence of Contra-indications*

Patients with eczema, leukaemia, hypogammaglobulinaemia; or on cortico-steroid or immuno-suppressive therapy; or adults with a marked allergic diathesis; or old and infirm adults.

The gamma globulin should be given into a different site from the vaccine—preferable the buttock.

Dosage:	Patient under 1 year	..	0.5 g. immediately	
	,, 1-6 years	..	1.0g.	,,
	,, 7-14 years	..	1.5g.	,,
	,, 15 years or more	..	2.0g.	,,

2. *Previously Unvaccinated Contacts of Cases of Smallpox*

In conjunction with vaccination, anti-vaccinial gamma globulin given on or about the 10th day after exposure to smallpox may offer additional protection to contacts who have never previously been vaccinated or who have not been vaccinated for many years.

Dosage:	Patient under 1 year	..	0.5g.
	,, 1-6 years	..	1.0g.
	,, 7 years or more	..	1.5g.

3. *Generalized Vaccinia, Chronic Progressive Vaccinia, Eczema Vaccinatum*

Dosage:

Patient under 1 year	..	0.5g. immediately	} Repeat dose 2 days later if not improving.
,, 1-6 years	..	1.0g.	
,, 7-14 years	..	1.5g.	
,, 15 years or more	..	2.0g.	

4. *Vaccinial Lesions of the Eye*

Dosage: As in 3 above but include half-hourly local instillation of 1% solution in sterile saline.

(To make the dilution required add the volume in the ampoule to ten times the amount of sterile saline.)

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Anti-vaccinial gamma globulin is of no known value in the treatment of post-vaccinal encephalitis.

In 3 and 4 above, because of the possibility that other viruses, e.g. herpes simplex may be the agent responsible, it is as well to obtain laboratory confirmation of the diagnosis.

Special Gamma Globulins

Obtainable from the Epidemiological Research Laboratory, as above, though in very short supply.

Convalescent Chickenpox Gamma Globulin

For chickenpox contacts where serious risk exists, e.g. a sickly infant, new-born in fact in contact with an infected mother, non-immune patient suffering from leukaemia, and patients undergoing cortico-steroid or immuno-suppressive therapy, or, again, with hypogammaglobulinaemia.

Dosage:	Under 1 year	..	..	..	0.5g.
	1-6 years	..	..	..	1.0g.
	7 years or more	..	..	..	1.5g.

Convalescent Mumps Gamma Globulin

For cases where serious risk exists, e.g. non-immune sick contact, leukaemia, or when undergoing cortico-steroid or immuno-suppressive therapy.

Dosage: As for Convalescent Chickenpox Gamma Globulin—please see above.

Other Sources of Normal Gamma Globulin

Doctors wishing to obtain gamma globulin for patients ineligible for gamma globulin on the National Health Service may purchase it privately from:—

Kabi Pharmaceuticals Ltd.,
Bilton House, Uxbridge Road,
EALING, W.5 LTH. Tel.: 01-567 4717

Vaccines and other Immunological Materials Obtainable from the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale

Typhus, Rabies and Anthrax vaccines.

Frei antigen for Lymphogranuloma inguinale, Trichina antigen for Trichinosis, Hydatid antigen for Hydatid disease and cat-scratch fever antigen.

Enquiries relating to fungal antigens should be addressed to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Mycological Reference Laboratory, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London, WC1E 7HT. Tel.: 01-636 8636.

I am greatly indebted to Doctor J. E. Jameson, Director of the Public Health Laboratory Service, Brighton, for this up-to-date information.

(E) NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

(i) *Section 47: Removal to suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention*

Fortunately I have been able to avoid using this Section during 1971.

(ii) *Section 50: Burial or Cremation of the Dead*

Action was necessary in two cases under this Section in 1971.

(F) HOME PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICE

The Home Physiotherapy Service provides qualified physiotherapists with completely equipped vans for the treatment of the incapacitated.

This charitable service, mainly concerned with the elderly, is complementary to the National Health Service hospital physiotherapy department. It provides treatment for those persons who, in the opinion of their hospital consultants or general practitioners, would derive more benefit from domiciliary attention but who cannot afford the services of a private physiotherapist.

(G) NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN
Telephone Hastings 1848.

(H) FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION

Designed to advise married people on the spacing and limitation of families, including involuntary sterility and minor gynaecological ailments.

Clinics are held as follows:—

Arthur Blackman Clinic, London Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea.	Every Tuesday, 2.15 to 3.45 p.m. First and third Wednesdays in month 6 to 7.30 p.m. Telephone: Hastings 51225.
The Clinic, The Avenue, Eastbourne.	Every Monday, 2.30 to 4.0 p.m. <i>By appointment only.</i> Every Thursday, 2.30 to 4.0 p.m. and 5.30 to 7.0 p.m. Telephone: Eastbourne 26788 between 9.0 and 10.0 a.m.
Kent and Sussex Hospital, Out-patients Department, Tunbridge Wells.	Every Thursday, 2.0 to 3.15 p.m. and 6.0 to 7.30 p.m. <i>By appointment only.</i> Telephone: Tunbridge Wells 0892-20853
East Sussex and County Clinic, London Road, Bexhill-on-Sea.	Monday 6.30 to 8.0 p.m. <i>By appointment only.</i> Telephone: Cooden 3517 after 1.0 p.m.

The Family Planning Act, 1967, gives the Local Authority a general power to arrange for the giving of advice on contraception;

to examine those seeking such advice and to supply contraceptive substances and appliances. The significance of the Act is that it extends existing powers by recognising need on social as well as medical grounds. Charges may be made in non-medical cases if the person can afford it.

(I) MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCILS

Problems related to marital relationships.

Marriage Guidance Council Appointments Secretary, Telephone Bexhill 3380.

The Catholic Marriage Advisory Council, 84 Queen's Road, Brighton BN1 3XE (Telephone Brighton 0273-25261) serves Roman Catholics and others who may wish to make use of its services.

(J) THE MEALS-ON-WHEELS SERVICES

The Meals-on-Wheels service continued to cater for an increasing demand with apparent general satisfaction by the recipients.

Highest day's production of meals delivered in 1971 was 230 compared with 223 in 1970.

In spite of the spiralling cost of foodstuffs, we were able to maintain the average cost price of the food element at approximately 12½p per meal. This was due to selective bulk purchasing from various suppliers, and the increasing use of new products. The charge of 9p per meal for persons of limited means was unchanged and it was encouraging to note that 858 meals had been purchased at 18p per meal by persons in need, but in more affluent circumstances.

Travelling allowance paid by the County Council to volunteers was unchanged at 3p per mile.

The Darby and Joan Club continued to meet in Battle every Thursday and 1,548 meals were supplied compared with 987 meals in 1970.

Mrs. Spratt (W.R.V.S. Organiser), Miss Carey (W.R.V.S.) and Miss Kerr (W.R.V.S.) amongst others in this organisation, gave unstinted and dedicated support on the distribution side.

The permanent staff, Mrs. Jones (Supervisor) ably assisted by two part-time helpers continued to give an excellent service. We are fortunate to have such a happy atmosphere prevailing in a shared kitchen.

The personal interest of the Surveyor and Engineer (Mr. R. P. Field) in satisfying all our criteria for equipment and kitchen arrangements has been much appreciated.

The Treasurer (Mr. P. J. V. Allen) continues to ease our path on the financial side.

Mr. E. Barrow (Chief Administrative Assistant) supervises the day-to-day running of the service and has always been available to iron out any difficulties encountered.

The success of this venture is due to the combined support of all concerned.

**COMPARATIVE TABLE SHOWING NUMBERS OF MEALS PROVIDED
SINCE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SERVICE ON 8th OCTOBER,
1960**

				Annual Totals
1960	Voluntary schemes (W.R.V.S. and others)	..	..	156
1961	"	"	..	1,082
1962	"	"	..	1,900
1963	"	"	..	2,290
1964	"	"	..	4,986
1965	"	"	..	9,510
1966	"	"	..	11,116
1967	"	"	..	12,204
1968	Voluntary schemes .. .. .	..	7,221	
	L.A. scheme (commenced 17th June, 1968)	..	9,948	
			—	17,169
	Voluntary schemes—Burwash	1,359		
	Winchelsea	784		
1969	Northiam (up to 16th May, 1969) ..	685		
		—	2,828	
	L.A. scheme (Northiam included from 19th May, 1969)		24,303	
			—	27,131
1970	Voluntary schemes—Burwash	1,490		
	Winchelsea (up to 31st January, 1970) ..	63		
		—	1,553	
	L.A. scheme (Winchelsea included from 1st February, 1970)		30,582	
1971	Voluntary scheme—Burwash	1,391		32,135
	L.A. Scheme	32,866		34,257
				<u>153,936</u>

(K) RYE AND DISTRICT AGE CONCERN

The Rye and District Age Concern includes the villages of Winchelsea, Winchelsea Beach, Playden and Iden, and of course the town of Rye.

They endeavour to co-ordinate all the voluntary agencies connected with the welfare of the elderly in these areas, which includes Women's Royal Voluntary Service, Toc H, Inner Wheel, Rotary and "Learning to Live" projects arranged by the Headmaster for pupils attending the Thomas Peacocke School, Rye.

Herewith short list of services offered by this organisation:—

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Emergency Hospital Visiting Service. | 6. Home decorating. |
| 2. Gardening. | 7. Shopping. |
| 3. Visiting. | 8. Wood Chopping (Kindling). |
| 4. Mending. | 9. Help with filling in forms. |
| 5. Small home repairs. | 10. Snow clearance. |

Further information may be obtained from the Health Visitors of the parishes concerned who are represented on the Committee.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Milk Supplies—Brucella Abortus

- (i) Number of samples of raw milk examined 4
 (ii) Number of positive samples found 1

Action taken in respect of positive sample as follows:—

On receipt of a report from the Public Health Laboratory Service at Brighton dated 22nd February, 1971, a Regulation 20 Notice under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, was served dated 23rd February, 1971, requiring that no milk from the said farm shall be sold for human consumption or used in the manufacture of products for human consumption unless it is intended to be pasteurised or sterilised before consumption.

The milk, untreated, was bottled on the farm and all General Practitioners practising within the confines of the retail area were alerted.

The Notice was in operation until the infected animal was identified and removed and subsequently the herd milk-ring tests for brucellosis carried out in March and April proved negative.

The Notice was cancelled on 30th April, 1971, and the farmer applied to join the Brucellosis (Accredited Herds) Scheme.

All samples were satisfactory for penicillin content and negative for M. tuberculosis.

POULTRY INSPECTION

	1970	1971
Number of poultry processing premises within the District	1	1
Number of visits to these premises	51	45
Total number of birds processed during the year ..	1,709,750	1,674,800
Types of birds processed during the year	Broilers, cap- ons & turkeys	Broilers, cap- ons & turkeys
Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption	0.8	0.81
Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption (approx.)	41,184 lbs.	40,680 lbs.

FOOD HYGIENE

	1968	1969	1970	1971
Total number of food premises in Battle Rural District	455	473	415	394
Number fully inspected	109	128	233	233
Informal notices served	13	16	18	34
Notices complied with by the end of the year ...	12	14	16	29

Quick-frozen food stocks and cabinets need careful supervision by the retailer if the quality is to be maintained.

Rotation of stocks is just as important in frozen food as in ordinary packaged foods where the product would suffer if the shelf life were unduly prolonged.

The cabinet should not be overfilled, i.e. above the load line; the temperature of 0°F or below cannot be guaranteed above this line.

The temperature should be checked daily in the area just below this line. Regular maintenance, including defrosting, should be meticulously adhered to in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions if deterioration of the product is to be avoided.

Once frozen food has been thawed, no attempt should be made to re-freeze, this would constitute a hazardous practice, as the keeping quality would in this event be approximated to that of ordinary food stuffs.

The Public Health Inspectors use their best endeavours to ensure compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations by giving guidance to food traders in all aspects of food hygiene and the foregoing is just one facet which demands their constant and helpful vigilance.

The following is a comprehensive list of purveyors of food in Battle Rural District:—

Shops Classified according to their Main Trades

Grocers and General Provisions	..	..	..	..	112
Butchers	..	..	..	..	21
Sausage Makers (only)	..	..	..	..	2
Fishmongers	..	..	..	..	3
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	6
Confectionery and Sweets	..	..	..	..	20
Cafes	..	..	..	..	41
Bread Shops	..	..	..	..	4
Shops selling Milk	..	..	..	..	24
Market stall (Women's Institute)	..	..	..	..	1
<i>Bakehouses</i>	..	..	..	..	7
<i>Hotels, Inns, Guest Houses</i>	..	..	..	..	90
<i>Canteens (Industrial, etc.)</i>	..	..	..	..	5
<i>Schools</i>					
(a) Private (Boarding and Day)	..	..	..	..	14
(b) East Sussex County Council (Day)	..	..	..	..	27
(c) E.S.C.C. Boarding Annexes	..	..	..	..	2
<i>Hospitals</i>					
(a) Regional Hospital Board	..	..	..	..	3
(b) Private	..	..	..	..	1
<i>Nursing Home</i>	..	..	..	..	1
<i>Homes for the Aged</i>	..	..	..	..	3
<i>Food Preserving Premises (Jam)</i>	..	..	..	..	2
<i>Egg Packing Station</i>	..	..	..	..	1
<i>Poultry Processing Units</i>	..	..	..	..	2
<i>Village Trust</i>	..	..	..	..	1
<i>Holiday Village</i>	..	..	..	..	1

Registered Food Premises

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Ice Cream

No. of premises on Register at end of 1970	..	208
New registrations during 1971	.. ..	3

Ice cream is not manufactured within the District and shops sell the wrapped product.

Sausages

No. of premises on Register at end of 1970	..	22
New registrations during 1971	.. ..	—

Preserved Foods

No. of premises on Register at end of 1970	..	11
New registrations during 1971	.. ..	—

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Food found to be unfit for human consumption

During the year the undermentioned foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption:—

	Lamb	.. ..	10 lb.
Tinned Meat	..	7 lb. 5 oz.	Tinned Vegetables 6 lb. 4 oz.
Tinned Fish	..	24 oz.	Tinned Fruit .. 19 lb. 12 oz.
	Miscellaneous	.. ..	19 oz.

In addition to the above, a large quantity of frozen pre-packed foods were rendered unfit for consumption by electricity failure in shops.

Condemned Foods

Certificates are issued when required, food is then either removed to the Council's refuse tip, or stained and subsequently used in soap making.

Game Act, 1831

Six persons were licensed to deal in Game during the year 1971.

The Central Abattoir, Junction Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea

This is jointly owned and administered by Battle Rural District Council and three neighbouring Authorities (Hastings County Borough, the Borough of Bexhill and the Borough of Rye).

Average weekly throughput:—

Financial year ending 31.3.1971	Financial year ending 31.3.1972
446 units	400 units

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

No person was licensed to slaughter animals in Battle Rural District during 1971.

WATER SUPPLY

On the 31st December, 1971, there were three Statutory Undertakings supplying water of a high standard of purity and adequate quantity.

All water for domestic use is treated and chlorinated.

None of the water supplied to Battle Rural District is plumbo solvent.

<i>Undertaking</i>	<i>Parishes</i>
Eastbourne Waterworks Company ...	Ashburnham, Battle, Beckley, Bodiam, Brede (part), Brightling, Burwash, Catsfield, Crowhurst, Dallington, Etchingham, Ewhurst, Hurst Green, Iden, Mountfield, Northiam (part), Peasmarsh, Playden, Rye Foreign, Salehurst, Sedlescombe (part), Ticehurst, Whatlington.
Hastings Corporation	Brede (part), Camber, East Guldeford, Fairlight, Guestling, Icklesham including Winchelsea Beach, Winchelsea Town and Rye Harbour, Pett, Sedlescombe (part), Udimore and Westfield.
Mid-Kent Water Company	Northiam (part).

Fluoride Content of Main Water Supplies.

(a) *Eastbourne Waterworks Company*

The fluoride content of the four sources used for supplying Battle Rural District are given below:—

<i>Station</i>	<i>Fluoride as F mg/l.</i>
Powdermill, Battle.. ..	0.22
Burwash	0.30
Hazard's Green, Ninfield	0.22
Sedlescombe	0.34

(b) *Hastings Corporation*

The fluoride content of water supplied from the Brede Treatment works is less than 0.1 mg/l.

(c) *Mid-Kent Water Company*

The fluoride content of the water supplied to Northiam from Goudhurst Pumping Station is 0.1 mg/l.

All these main water supplies fall below the optimum level of 1 p.p.m. advised by leading authorities as being necessary to prevent the decay of teeth in young children.

No progress has been made by the Water Companies supplying this area to implement the Council's desire to accept fluoridation.

No public health measure has been the subject of such careful and meticulous research prior to being introduced to the public.

Private Piped Water Supply

NORMANHURST ESTATE, CATSFIELD

17 properties are supplied.

The water is filtered but not chlorinated.

Bacteriological reports were unsatisfactory.

The occupiers were warned to boil all water used for drinking and culinary purposes.

Chemically, there is an objectionable amount of iron and this aspect is in process of further investigation.

DISTRIBUTION OF PIPED WATER SUPPLIES—DOMESTIC PROPERTIES CONNECTED TO THE MAIN

	Properties				Population †
	1968	1969	1970	1971	1971
<i>Eastbourne Waterworks Company</i>					
Ashburnham	70	80	85	82	273
Battle	1,807	2,006	2,069	2,165	4,980
Beckley	318	346	356	363	888
Bodiam	98	110	111	117	303
Brede—see also (a) below ...	9	9	9	9	1,391 (a)
Brightling	96	105	116	126	359
Burwash	727	838	858	881	2,061
Catsfield	218	233	233	236	672
Crowhurst	247	267	265	294	763
Dallington	99	110	110	119	264
Etchingham	234	245	249	252	626
Ewhurst	260	348	359	362	898
Hurst Green	285	330	378	375	865
Iden	136	145	149	154	365
Mountfield	167	177	179	181	551
Northiam—see also (b) below	59	62	64	64	1,703 (b)
Peasmarsh	245	347	349	365	902
Penhurst	8	9	9	9	33
Playden	132	117	120	127	333
Rye Foreign	65	70	70	71	398
Salehurst	664	752	728	765	1,844
Sedlescombe—see also (c) below	390	430	432	445	1,315 (c)
Ticehurst	1,045	1,045	1,149	1,215	3,116
Whatlington	110	114	119	128	274
<i>Hastings Corporation</i>					
Brede—see also (a) above	505	547	579	612	1,391 (a)
Camber	283	287	290	295	553
East Guldeford	23	23	23	23	95
Guestling*	1,394	1,394	1,462	1,542	3,171
Icklesham†	1,028	1,028	1,043	1,054	2,032
Udimore	114	117	118	121	348
Westfield	760	767	771	784	2,187
Sedlescombe—see also (c) above	10	17	17	17	1,315 (c)
<i>Mid-Kent Water Company</i>					
Northiam—see also (b) above	527	527	614	625	1,703 (b)
	12,133	13,002	13,483	13,969	

*Including the parishes of Pett, Fairlight and that part of Guestling known as Three Oaks.

†Including Winchelsea Town, Winchelsea Beach and Rye Harbour.

There are no permanent standpipes in this District.

‡Provisional figures, 1971 Census.

Sampling of Public Supplies

The following table summarises the results of sampling public supplies:—

Sources	Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
(a) <i>Samples taken by the Council:</i>				
Eastbourne Waterworks Co. Ltd.:				
Battle	Bacteriological	7	—	7
Hastings Corporation:				
Pett	Bacteriological	3	—	3
(b) <i>Reports received from Statutory Undertakings:</i>				
Eastbourne Waterworks Co.				
Powdermill Lane, Battle	Bacteriological	241	4	245
Burwash	Bacteriological	379	6	385
Sedlescombe	Bacteriological	270	7	277
Hastings Corporation:				
Fairlight	Bacteriological	44	—	44
Fairlight (Warren Service Reservoir)	Bacteriological	2	—	2

WATER SAMPLES TAKEN FROM NEW AND SUSPECT SOURCES

Parishes	Wells		Springs	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Ashburnham	3	—	—	—
Battle	1	—	—	1
Pett	1	—	—	—

Advice is given to consumers in all cases of unsatisfactory water supplies.

DUNGENESS NUCLEAR POWER STATION, ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

Reports were received at regular intervals covering the period from January to December, 1971.

The following comments were extracted:—

The levels of radioactivity in fish taken from the vicinity of Dungeness and the dose-rates over the local beaches are not significantly different from those found in areas remote from nuclear stations. The measurements continue to demonstrate the satisfactory degree of control which the Central Electricity Generating Board exercises over its discharges of liquid effluent to the sea.

The levels of strontium 90 in the milk sampled in the two zones were all substantially the same as those which are found in comparable parts of the country where there are no nuclear power stations.

The Departments responsible for controlling discharges of radioactive waste and direct radiation from the station consider that the position shown in this report is satisfactory.

SEWERAGE

BREDE AND BROAD OAK

A new pumping station to cater for the increased sewage flow resulting from development in the Broad Oak area was completed.

ROBERTSBRIDGE

A scheme for the construction of a new enlarged pumping station, together with extensions to the sewage treatment works, commenced during the year.

WESTFIELD

Work on this scheme was completed during the year.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE NUMBER OF LOADS REMOVED

	Private Properties				Local Authority				Total			
	1968	1969	1970	1971	1968	1969	1970	1971	1968	1969	1970	1971
January ..	215	★	★	★	7	★	★	★	222	279	256	238
February ..	232	★	★	★	7	★	★	★	239	240	251	256
March ..	238	★	★	★	6	★	★	★	244	315	271	315
April ..	311	★	★	★	25	★	★	★	336	321	342	317
May ..	287	★	★	★	25	★	★	★	312	311	342	274
June ..	257	★	★	★	22	★	★	★	279	331	328	400
July ..	263	★	★	★	23	★	★	★	286	338	338	351
August ..	353	★	★	★	32	★	★	★	385	315	292	284
September ..	270	★	★	★	22	★	★	★	292	311	333	354
October ..	270	★	★	★	32	★	★	★	302	300	283	295
November ..	210	★	★	★	5	★	★	★	215	234	220	288
December ..	195	★	★	★	13	★	★	★	208	242	222	256
Totals ..	3,101	★	★	★	219	★	★	★	3,320	3,537	3,478	3,628

★The figures for 1969, 1970 and 1971 now represent the sum total of private properties and local authority loads removed in each month.

This change is consequent upon an O & M survey in 1969 which considered that the statistical loss was of insufficient value to warrant the paperwork involved.

REFUSE COLLECTION

During 1971 refuse collections were made weekly in the parishes of Battle, Camber, Fairlight, Guestling, Icklesham, Pett, Salehurst, Sedlescombe and Westfield. Plans for an extension of the *weekly service to Burwash, Ticehurst, Hurst Green, Etchingham, Crowhurst, Peasmarsh and Rye Harbour during October were frustrated by the non-delivery of the necessary new vehicle but the improved service started on 6th January, 1972.

The Council's fleet of vehicles comprised five 35 cubic yard "Pakamatics", one Dennis Paxit IIC and two Shelvoke & Drewry fore and aft tippers.

A new four-wheel drive loading shovel was purchased in November to replace the existing machine.

The labour force totals 33 men in the charge of a cleansing supervisor.

Special collections of large household refuse are arranged at the request if householders free of charge.

Salvage

		1969	1970	1971
Mixed Wastepaper..	..	£2,114	£2,320	£3,156
Rags..	..			
Metals	..			

LITTER ACT, 1958

100 litter bins on the coastal strip from Pett Level to Camber and 15 street bins in Camber are sited at focal points at the beginning of each summer season.

Beach wardens were employed to pick up litter and a full-time driver with a van visited each bin at least every two days with special attention at Bank Holidays.

This comprehensive scheme for litter clearance from the coastal areas continued from April to October, 1971.

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT, 1967

This Act makes it an offence to abandon a motor vehicle and imposes a duty on local authorities to remove abandoned vehicles and to make provision for owners to leave unwanted vehicles in specified places. There is also an obligation to provide places where householders may leave unwanted articles and rubbish.

The Council provides a free disposal service for old motor cars and free collections of bulky refuse.

Old cars are collected by a car breaker paid by the Council, and during 1971, 58 cars were dealt with in this way. Of these, 17 were found abandoned and 41 were removed at the request of owners.

821 free collections of bulky refuse were made in 1971, as compared with 613 in 1970.

* All parishes were being served weekly by May, 1972

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES IN BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT

Public conveniences with wash-basins are provided by the Council at:

The Abbey Green, Battle,
Free Car Park, Battle (Mobile),
Camber, East,
Camber, Central,
Camber, West (accessible to the disabled),
Hurst Green,
Pett Level,
Robertsbridge,
Rye Harbour,
Ticehurst,
Winchelsea Beach.

By arrangement with the brewers, the Council contributes to the cost of the public conveniences at the Castle Inn, Winchelsea, as a temporary measure.

HOUSING

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

(A) *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957:*

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | Nil |
| (ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices: | |
| (a) By owners | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. | Nil |
| (iii) Number of dwelling-houses acquired and subsequently rendered fit by the Local Authority | Nil |

(B) *Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:*

- | | |
|--|---|
| (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. | 4 |
| (ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices (by Local Authority) | — |
| (iii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices (by owners) .. | 4 |

(C) *Proceedings under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957:*

(i) Number of Representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation	8
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(iii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(iv) Number of dwelling-houses closed in pursuance of Undertakings accepted from owners	7
(v) Number of dwelling-houses demolished which were the subject of Undertakings	5
(vi) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Undertakings were accepted from owners which have since been made fit	17

(D) *Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957:* .. Nil(E) *Proceedings under Section 24 of the Housing Act, 1957:* .. Nil**HOUSING ACT, 1969**

Improvement Grants	1970 Number of Dwellings	1971 Number of Dwellings
Applications received during year ..	124	159
*Applications approved:		
Owner/occupied	71	116
Other	34	35
	— 105	— 151
Total amount of grant paid during year for the completion of ..	67	94
	Cost .. £34,217	Cost .. £60,357

Standard Grants

	1970 <i>Number of Dwellings</i>	1971 <i>Number of Dwellings</i>
Applications received during year . .	36	38
*Applications approved:		
Owner/occupied	23	23
Other	9	12
	— 32	— 35
Completions during year	22	34
Cost . .	£4,532	Cost . . £7,368
Amenities provided . .		
Fixed baths or showers	17	29
Wash-hand basins	20	30
Sinks	7	9
Hot water supplies	21	34
Water closets	17	26
Number where advantage taken of increased grant	11	14

The total amount paid in Standard and Improvement grants was £67,725 in 1971, compared with £38,749 in 1970.

*N.B.—It will be appreciated that the number of applications approved in a year is not necessarily the number received or completed in that same year.

Qualification Certificates

Besides amending the law regarding Improvement Grants, the Housing Act, 1969, introduced a new incentive to landlords to improve their property. The owners of properties who have provided their houses with the standard amenities can, subject to conditions, apply for a Qualification Certificate, the effect of which enables a controlled tenancy to become a regulated tenancy. This enables the landlord to obtain a fair rent, fixed by the Rent Officer, which can be reviewed at three yearly intervals.

Before granting a Qualification Certificate the Council have to be satisfied that in addition to possessing the standard amenities, the house concerned is in all respects fit for human habitation and in a reasonable state of repair, having regard to its age, character and locality and disregarding internal decorative repair.

The procedures are somewhat complicated and the Council received 48 applications in 1971 as compared with 24 in 1970.

HOUSING PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

1939	..	..	..	..	..	433
1947	..	..	..	..	..	540
1957	..	..	..	..	..	1,326
1967	..	..	..	..	..	1,577
1970	..	..	..	..	..	1,927
1971	..	..	..	..	..	1,982

101 families were rehoused during 1971.

785 applicants were on the Register at 31st December, 1971 (268 of these on "Deferred" or non-urgent list).

The Council controls 90 housing estates, varying from 2 dwellings to 125.

All Council dwellings have main water supplies.

Rent Rebate Scheme

<i>Year</i>	<i>Approximate amount of rebate</i>				
1967	£1,794		
1968	£2,058		
1969	£2,838		
1970	£5,538		
1971	£6,844		

No rebates are granted to recipients of Social Security Benefits.

HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

Total units completed as follows:—

Battle	..	..	..	..	..	17
Northiam	..	..	..	..	..	21
Peasmarsh	..	..	..	..	..	18
Sedlescombe	..	..	..	..	..	13
Ticehurst	..	..	..	..	..	17
Westfield	..	..	..	..	..	17

Each block controlled by a resident Warden.

Eighteen years ago, 6% of the population of this country were of retirement age, in 1956 the figure was 15%, and last year 20%. It is estimated that 40% will be in this age group by 1981.

This is an urgent indication for planning by both central and local government if the medical and social services are to remain viable in this testing period.

NEW DWELLINGS

Erected during 1971

(a) By this Council:

Guestling	..	30	{ 6 with 1 bedroom 10 with 2 bedrooms 14 with 3 bedrooms
Hurst Green	..	8	{ 6 with 1 bedroom 2 with 2 bedrooms
Peasmarsh	..	19	{ 18 with 1 bedroom 1 with 2 bedrooms
		—	
		57	
		—	

(b) By private enterprise:

211	{ 76 with 2 bedrooms 122 with 3 bedrooms 13 with 4 or more bedrooms
-----	---

Under construction as at 31st December, 1971

(a) By this Council .. 36 Hurst Green

(b) By private enterprise 94

				PRIVATE ENTERPRISE		LOCAL AUTHORITY
				New dwellings	Conversions	NEW DWELLINGS
1961	..	..	..	160	34	22
1962	..	..	..	199	19	10
1963	..	..	..	203	5	18
1964	..	..	..	253	15	23
1965	..	..	..	278	26	10
1966	..	..	..	219	15	38
1967	..	..	..	212	25	141
1968	..	..	..	232	8	132
1969	..	..	..	148	16	126
1970	..	..	..	134	5	140
1971	..	..	..	211	22	57

LICENSED CARAVAN SITES

<i>Sites</i>	<i>Number of Caravans</i>
Crowhurst Park, Battle	300
Silver Sands Caravan Park, Camber	350
Frenchmans Beach Caravan Park, Rye Harbour ..	315
Rye Bay Caravan Park, Winchelsea Beach ..	290
Winchelsea Sands Caravan Park, Winchelsea Beach ..	300
Beauport Caravan Park, Battle	350
Coghurst Caravan Park, Guestling	400
Camber Caravan Park & Tourist Court, Camber ..	340
Lordine Court Caravan Park, Ewhurst	150
Beach Caravan Park, Pett Level	30
White Lodge Caravan Park, Winchelsea Beach ..	45
Devonia Caravan Park, Iden	20
The Cock Inn, Peasmarsh	25
Winchelsea Beach Caravan Park, Winchelsea Beach ..	50
Windmill Caravan Site, Winchelsea Beach ..	45
Ferryfields Caravans, Winchelsea	70
Victoria Way, Winchelsea Beach	6
Waterbridge Place, Winchelsea Beach	20
Links Caravan Site, Camber	6
Carters Farm, Pett	85
Land rear The Rother Valley Hotel, Northiam ..	12
Dogs Hill Road, Winchelsea Beach	12
Whitegates, Westfield	6
Stonepit Wood, London Road, Battle	5
Total	<u>3,232</u>

The issue of a site licence is conditional on planning consent having been obtained.

Occupation is restricted to the period 1st March—31st October.

Amenities provided are based on Model Standards, 1960, recommended by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and subject to variation at the Council's discretion.

VISITS OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS—COMPARATIVE

TABLE FOR YEARS 1961, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971

	1961	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Drainage and sewage disposal	1,912	1,120	1,202	1,049	1,146	893
Water supplies	189	293	184	198	144	135
Milk and dairies	25	52	20	27	13	22
Building inspections	2,867	3,969	3,751	2,917	3,395	4,955
Hop-pickers' dwellings	13	11	5	5	—	—
Infectious diseases	65	80	71	79	88	29
Food premises	125	433	357	222	298	328
Housing and Public Health Acts	501	480	620	1,148	286	336
Improvement Grants	962	588	636	859	935	1,378
Moveable dwellings	28	54	40	22	29	8
Nuisances	260	819	657	722	418	507
Factories and work-shops	6	12	9	12	12	8
Schools	2	—	3	15	16	14
Slaughterhouses	272	91*	87*	56*	42*	45*
Public cleansing	93	74	158	73	66	49
Miscellaneous	294	934	811	748	915	1,011
Petroleum Regulations	73	114	203	93	124	215
Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963	—	4	16	8	4	7
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	—	57	27	14	107	77
Agriculture, Health and Welfare Act, 1956	—	—	—	14	—	5
Civic Amenities Act, 1967	—	—	—	—	105	43
Clean Air Act, 1956	—	—	—	—	3	71
Noise Abatement Act, 1960	—	—	—	—	48	81
Hairdressers and Barbers Regulations, 1961	—	—	—	—	1	—
Special Surveys	—	—	—	—	20	—
Totals	7,702	9,185	8,857	8,374	8,194	10,217

*These figures relate to a poultry processing unit as all private slaughterhouses in the District were closed at the end of 1965 on the opening of the Central Abattoir.

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936

129 premises in Battie Rural District were licensed to store petroleum spirit necessitating 215 visits by the Public Health Inspectors.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This Act made provision for the health, welfare and safety of persons employed in offices, shops and certain railway premises.

At the end of 1971 the numbers of premises registered under this Act were:—

Offices	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	57
Retail shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	123
Warehouses, wholesale shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens								..	22
Fuel storage depots	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

All animal boarding establishments for dogs and cats must be licensed by the local authority. Special conditions may be specified by the local authority to ensure that the accommodation is suitable and that the animals will be adequately cared for in relation to food, drink, spread of disease, fire precautions and supervision.

A register of animals must be maintained by the licensee and be open to inspection.

In 1971, 12 premises were licensed to board a total of 222 dogs and 129 cats. Seven visits were made by the Public Health Inspectors.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS' ACT, 1964

There are seven registered dealers under the above Act in the Rural District of Battie.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Eight inspections under the Factories Act, 1961, were made during 1971. There was one outworker under Section 110(1)(c). Conditions were satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

PREMISES	NO. ON REGISTER	INSPEC- TIONS	NOTICES	OCCUPIERS PROSECUTED
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	131	8	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	134	8	—	—

Cases in which defects were found

PARTICULARS	NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND				NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH PROSECUTIONS WERE INSTITUTED
	FOUND	REMEDIED	REFERRED		
			To H.M. INSPECTOR	By H. M. INSPECTOR	
Want of cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	—	—	—	—	—

(Outwork Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sect. 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel: Making, etc.	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and washing	—	—	—	—	—	—

HOP PICKING

Hop picking by machines continued as in previous years at Messrs. Guinness Hop Farms Ltd. Water and toilet facilities were all satisfactory and available at strategic points throughout.

Personnel employed during 1971 comprised:—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Students (Concordia)	120	3
Machine sheds and oast houses	238	36
Caravan park	12	6
	<hr/> 370	<hr/> 45
Totals for 1970 were	<hr/> 397	<hr/> 47

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Preventive action is effected by routine maintenance of permanent baiting points at refuse tips, public sewers, sewage works and other vulnerable premises or areas by contract with a private firm.

Many farms have individual contracts with private firms for pest control.

The following table summarises work undertaken during the 12 months ending 31st December, 1971:—

	Type of property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in the district	15,645	1,684
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification ...	561	—
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	424	—
(ii) Mice	107	—
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	79	—
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	65	—
(ii) Mice	14	—

METEOROLOGY

RAINFALL FIGURES TAKEN AT BATTLE WATERWORKS

	Number of days on which rain fell	Longest period of drought	Periods of drought
1962 ..	149	20 days	4th-23rd Oct. inclusive
1963 ..	166	None recorded	None recorded
1964 ..	146	16 days	19th Sept.-4th Oct. inclusive
1965 ..	185	None recorded	None recorded
1966 ..	196	None recorded	None recorded
1967 ..	184	23 days	31st May-22nd June inclusive
1968 ..	170	None recorded	None recorded
1969 ..	152	29 days	24th Feb.-10th March inclusive 11th July-28th July inclusive 28th Aug.-14th Sept. inclusive 22nd Sept.-21st Oct. inclusive
1970 ..	165	17 days	22nd May-7th June inclusive 9th-22nd June inclusive
1971 ..	107	24 days	30th June-23rd July inclusive 2nd September-22nd September inclusive 28th September-12th October inclusive 20th October-4th November inclusive 30th November-17th December inclusive

The definition of Drought is 15 days without rain.

Comparison with previous years is given in the following table:

<i>Year</i>	..	..	..	..	<i>Total rainfall</i>
1961	..	..	..	..	27.2 inches
1962	..	..	..	..	27.9 inches
1963	..	..	..	..	34.5 inches
1964	..	..	..	..	29.2 inches
1965	..	..	..	..	36.9 inches
1966	..	..	..	..	39.1 inches
1967	..	..	..	..	34.7 inches
1968	..	..	..	..	30.7 inches
1969	..	..	.	..	31.1 inches
1970	..	..	..	..	960.9 mm
1971	..	..	..	..	734.4 mm

